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EXHIBIT 4 HVVH  
DATE 1-16-09  
HB 29

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

TO: Members of the House Human Services Committee

FROM: Boyce Fowler, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: HB 29 Increase funding for senior and disabled transportation account

Madam chair and members of the committee, my name is Boyce Fowler and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana –a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. AARP Montana is committed to preserving and increasing the number of transportation resources for disabled and elderly Montanans.

As we age, it is inevitable that one of these days we'll have to hang up our keys for good. For many older Montanans, after they have stopped driving they need state sponsored help addressing their daily needs. They need rides to the senior centers for lunch and activities, rides to the grocer, and most importantly, rides to receive medical attention.

The funds from the senior transportation account go towards buying new vehicles, repairing old ones, and reimbursing for gas. The funds must be increased to compensate both for a currently under funded program as well as a rapidly aging state. The entities that administer these funds could be improved dramatically by passing this legislation.

Again, we all know the day will come when we have to hang up our keys, and we should unite behind the idea that when that day comes you should still be able to access basic necessities of life. The programs that are in place are highly valuable for older Montanans, and we strongly believe they should be expanded.

We strongly urge you to pass House Bill 29. Thank you.